

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AGR-20 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3221

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 5320

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID,/EAGR, UK, XF, LI

SUBJECT: REPORT OF BRITISH-ARAB LOAN/INVESTMENT AGREEMENT
WITH LIBERIA

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN LIBERIA AND FLOWER GROUP OF COMPANIES IN LONDON UNDER WHICH \$100 MILLION (\$13 MILLION FIRST PHASE) TO BE SPENT ON AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN LIBERIA. PROPOSED PROJECTS SAID TO INCLUDE IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE SCHEMES, MEAT AND DAIRY PROCESSING INDUSTRIES, PINE-APPLE AND COCONUT PLANTATIONS, AND REGIONAL WEST AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL STUDIES TO BE LOCATED IN LIBERIA. AGREEMENTS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED FOR LIBERIA BY AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ADOLPHUS BENEDICT TOLBERT (PRESIDENT'S SON) AND MINISTER OF ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS JULIUS COOPER PRIOR TO THEIR RECENT DEPARTURE FROM LONDON FOR BUCHAREST TO JOIN PRESIDENT ON STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA. NO INDICATION AS TO IDENTITY FLOWER GROUP SIGNATORY.

2. BRITISH CHARGE UNAWARE ANY PROPOSAL BY UK FINANCIERS PROVIDE LOAN OR INVESTMENT CAPITAL TO LIBERIA OTHER THAN \$7.2 MILLION SUPPLIERS CREDIT ARRANGED LAST YEAR WITH HMG ASSISTANCE THROUGH FRELEX INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, BIRMINGHAM-BASED FIRM OWNED BY FINANCE MINISTER STEPHEN TOLBERT (PRESIDENT'S BROTHER). IT POSSIBLE
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HOWEVER, THAT FLOWER GROUP REPRESENTS MIDDLE EAST OIL MONEY.

PRIOR TO A.B. TOLBERT'S LONDON TRIP HE MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING
UP ON DISCUSSIONS BEGUN ON EARLIER VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY
LONDON MAY HAVE ON FLOWER GROUP OF COMPANIES AND ITS ARRANGEMENTS
WITH LIBERIA.
BEAN

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Message Attributes

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